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P21189.A11

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant : Norio NUMAKO

Mail Stop Issue Fee

Confirmation No.: 8219

Appln. No. : 09/961,186

Group Art Unit: 2851

Filed : September 24, 2001

Examiner: Arthur A. SMITH

For : LENS DRIVE CONTROL APPARATUS FOR ZOOM LENS SYSTEM
HAVING A SWITCHING LENS GROUP

COMMENTS ON STATEMENT OF REASONS FOR ALLOWANCE

Commissioner for Patents
P.O.Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

In response to the Notice of Allowability, mailed by the Patent and Trademark Office on February 25, 2004, and to the Statement of Reasons for Allowance attached thereto, Applicant wishes to clarify the record with respect to the basis for the patentability of each of the claims in the present application. In this regard, while Applicant does not disagree with the Examiner's indication that certain identified features are not disclosed by the references, Applicant submits that each of the claims in the present application recite a particular combination of features, and that the basis for patentability of these claims is based on the totality of the features recited therein.

P21189.A11

Should there be any questions, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the below-listed telephone number.

Respectfully submitted,
Norio NUMAKO

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May 11, 2004
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